



Northern knowledge applied to Southern corruption problems –

is there a better approach?

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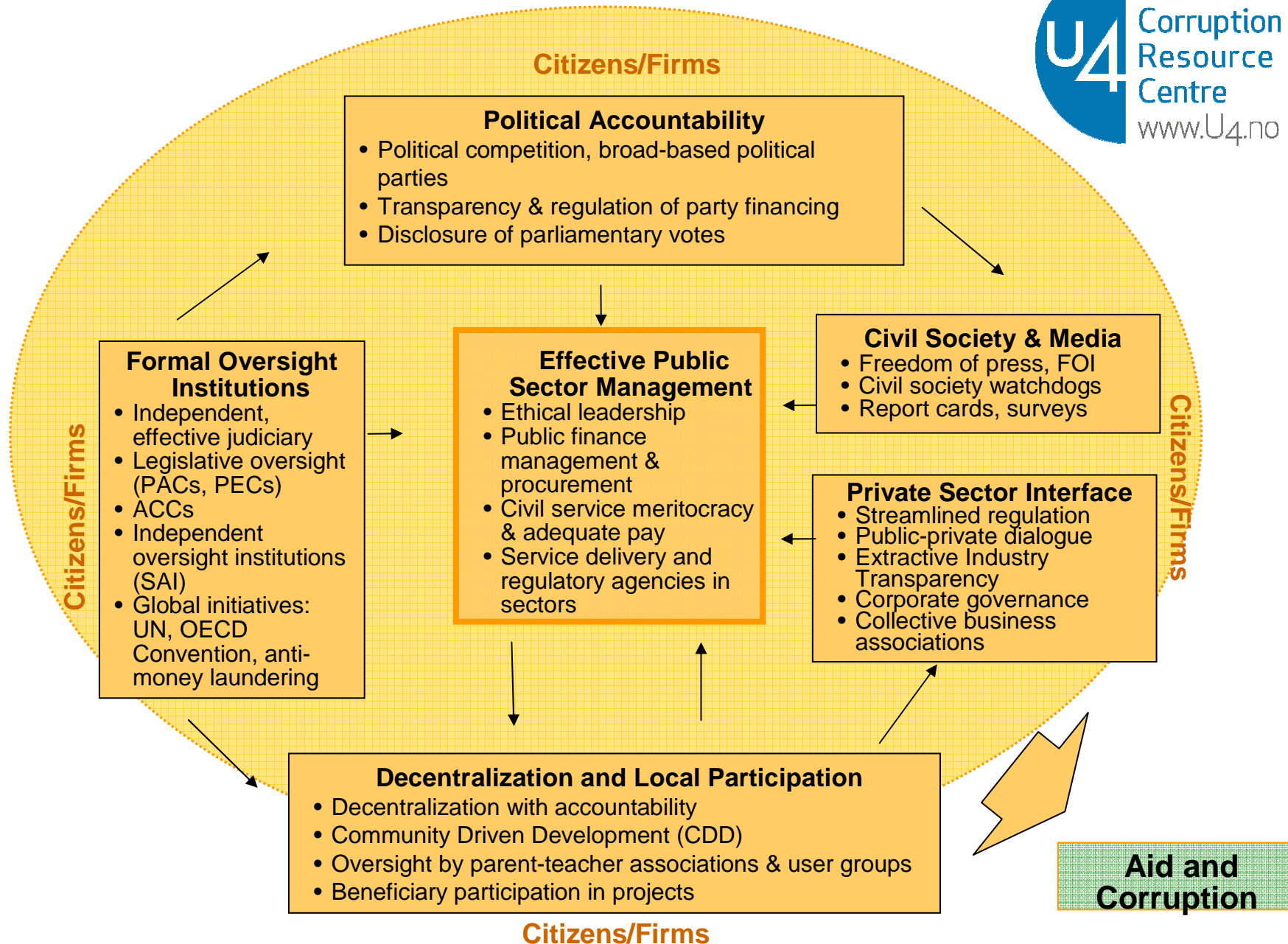


- **Projects Database**
 - Selected literature
 - Tool kits
- **Links**
 - Web-sites
 - Organisations
- **Services**
 - Helpdesk
 - Training
- **Resources**
 - Theme Pages/Focus Areas
 - Public Finance Management
 - Health and Education
 - African Anti-Corruption Commissions
 - Natural resource management
 - Donor Coordination
 - Knowledge management
 - Corruption in Emergencies
 - Political Corruption
 - Private sector
 - UNCAC
 - Ethics

Technical assistance – aim:

effective and sustainable transfers of knowledge and skills to recipient countries

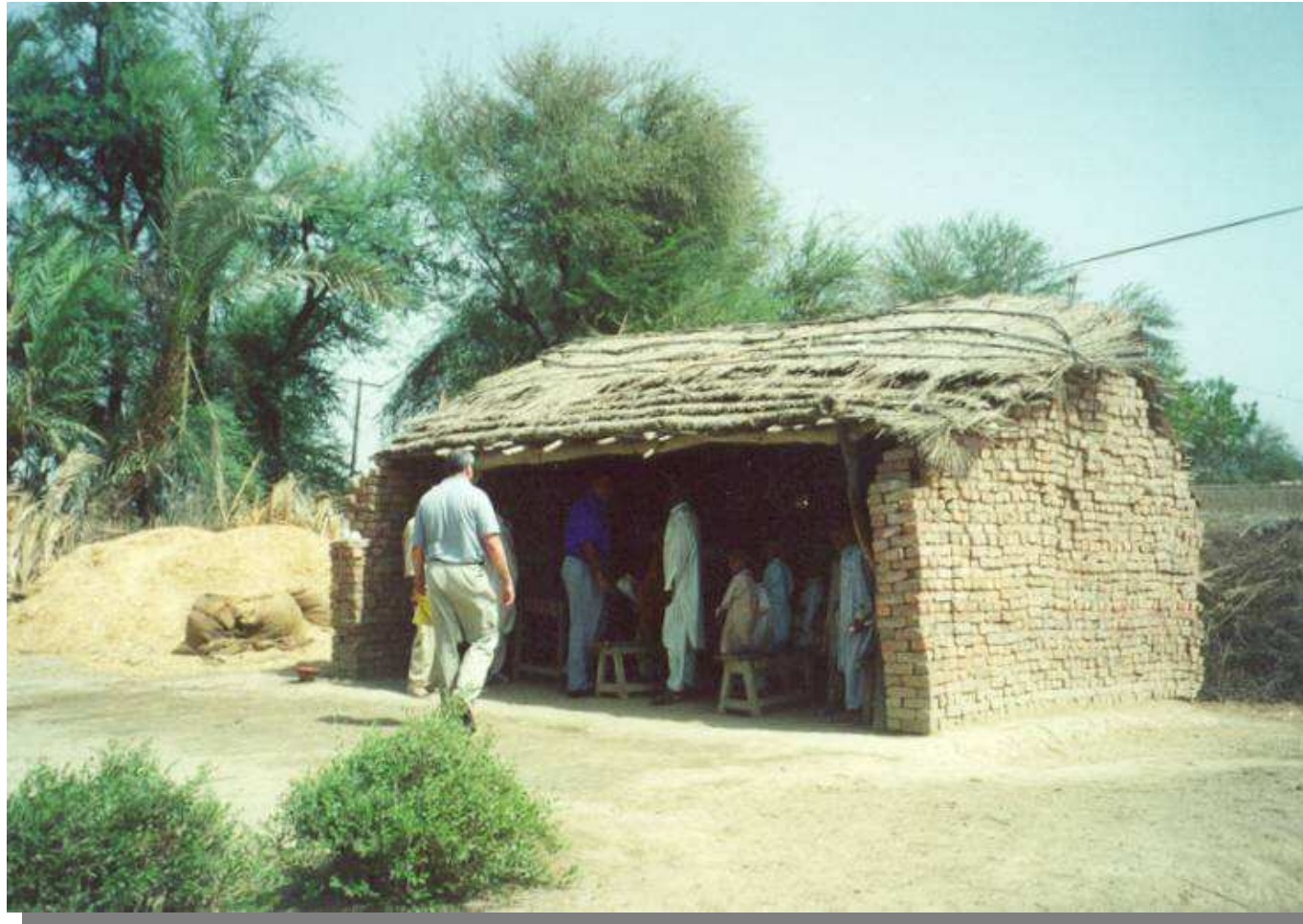
- Much is need, but increasingly contested:
 - Difficult to measure success
 - Tied to donor country, making it expensive!
 - “No exit in sight - consultants just keep coming”
 - TA supply driven, weakly coordinated and aligned
 - Difficult to quantify, up to 50% of all aid



Does all of this work?

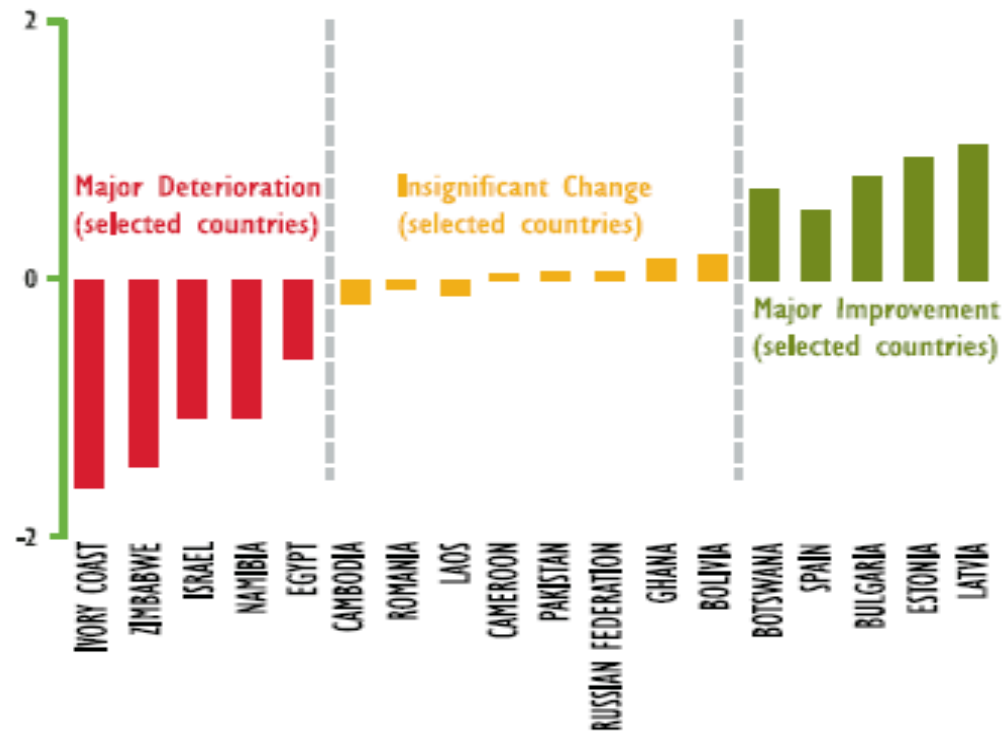


TA- high cost for low results?



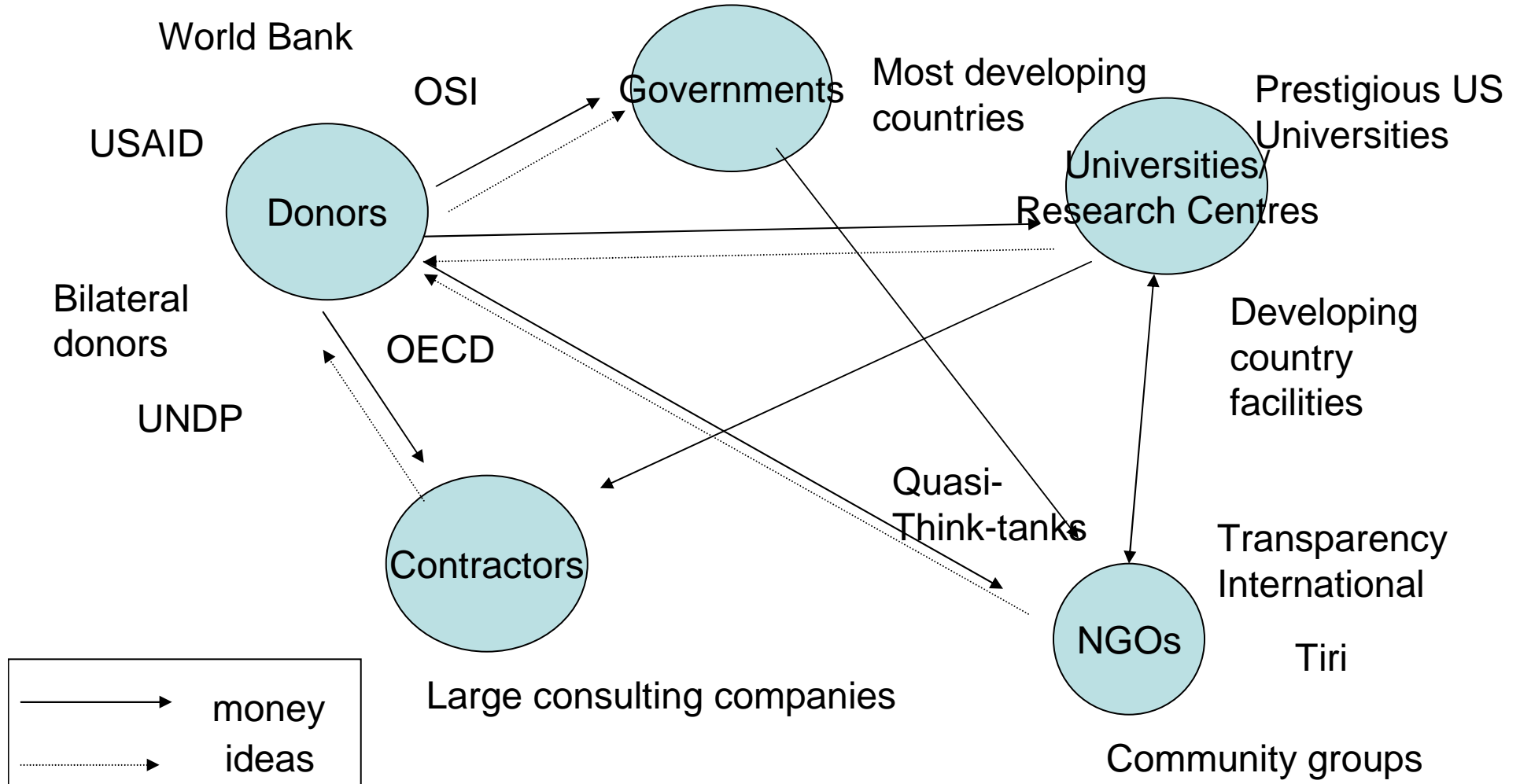
Status from a generation of AC reform

Changes in control of corruption in selected countries, 1996–2005



Why are we failing?





Source: Bryane Michael

Carrier of knowledge transfers 1: aid donors agencies



Powerfull based on the funds they provide, number of professional staff and their access to reseach infrastructure and reseach centres

- Not good learning institutions

Weak needs assessment processes

- Speed dating appraoch
- Survey data/ Internet
- Own reason approach
- Long term partnership approach

Anti-corruption disconnected from social context and deployed as isolated artefacts of tools and techniques

Carrier of knowledge transfers 2: Northern consultants



Anti-corruption is difficult – call the consultant

- Working to compensate for weak local skills, but
 - Danger of crowding out national research and policy makers
 - Quality of work: Blueprints - introduce strategies and “best practice”; they are often laundry lists of things to be done with little regard for context
 - Interest in keeping rather than sharing information

Recipients of knowledge transfers – Southern governments and institutions



Consumers of knowledge and implementers of advice

- At the bottom of the knowledge hierarchy
- Local institutions have less influence over local policy making, why:
- Much less resources; IFI vs the government of country X
- Great incentives to accept studies and TA; loans, debt relief, trade

Outcome: development knowledge dependency

Power imbalance in anti-corruption reform



Ideas and reforms conceived in one context – implemented in another

- Reforms inscribed by values from designers' background, and assumptions about the skills, values and resources of the user context (Heeks)

In the world of anti-corruption:

What are experiencing is a uni-directional contextual collision where western technocratic modernity meet traditional expression of power and authority

The assumption:

If it works for us, it'll work for you

Countries can quickly be modernized and rationalized

The experience:

Reform failure – or weak sustainability

Not understanding that the root causes of corruption is unique to every country, sector and institution – has a consequence”

Getting it right on the donor side



“There are limits to how far outsiders can really understand how another country and society work.

Therefore:

The purpose is to make the Northern providers of TA more effective at supporting local pressures and incentives for pro-poor change” (Mathisen)

How to empower the recipient side



Goal:

- To build local capabilities for development research and policy-making
 - Independent and well resourced indigenous knowledge centres of high calibre on anti-corruption
 - Promote South-South research and collaboration on anti-corruption

Thank you for your attention